

Meyersdale, Pa.  
July 22, 1923

Mr. M.E. Yoder and family.

Greeting to you all in the Masters name. I have just read your letter again, my heart was pained when I saw your concluding words, In which you subscribe your name and wife. There was a time that I used to do that to, but alas things have changed, and I can no longer say myself and wife.

I wish to thank you most heartily for your welcome and much longed for letter because of the refreshing effect of a letter from loved ones In the hour of grief and distress. Yet with it all I have much to be thankful for, though broken ties of nature have inflicted deep and painful wounds that will last while memory lives.

This is Sunday, Mary went to church this morning, I remained at home, as I Didn't feel good enough to go to church or at least I thought so. She came home a short time ago, and has nothing new to report. This is a rather warm and sultry day, just now a gentle breeze is coming in through the window where I am seated In attempting to write you a few lines.

I also wish to express my sincerest gratitude to you for <sup>your sympathy for</sup> the tragic loss and death of my loved ones, It is encouraging to know there are friends who still remember us In the hour of grief and the hour of trial. May the Good Lord bless us all is my wish and my prayer.

I also wish to embrace this opportunity of thanking you for your kind Invitation to pay you a visit this summer, and the thought of renewing old acquaintances and to rehearse the Incidentals of the past is<sup>a</sup> joyous thought indeed, But it looks to me as though I will have to forgo that pleasure at this time, dont know what the future will have in store for us. It dont suit verry well for me to go away at this time for several reasons. But I certainly would be pleased to have you come and pay us a visit.

I hope that man will get his price for his property, as I believe it would be better for him and the church if he would succeed in selling.

Well you wonder what some people find wrong with Nofzeiger. I don't think there is anyone here has much fault to find with him now. As he came here shortly after those assertions were made.

There is still some hay to make, most of the wheat is on shock, also some oats. Corn looks good, but is some that is late but will make a good crop if we dont have early frost.

Church matters have not changed much, but I dont believe that some of the most determined are as strong on some of their points as they were some time ago, I believe a little patience, and a little more toleration one toward the other, and with a spirit of forbearance things will come around allright and the unity and Integrity of the Church can be preserved, that is my wish and my prayer.

Mont. Snyder has been unfortunate to in his ventures in matrimony. He was msrried the second time. Then after a while they could not get along together and so he had a divorce, and now he says he will try it again. The woman he married the last time had a pretty hard name. and I think he knew it, but would not listen to friends who advised him against taking her. She was a widow and had a family of her own, several of whom were still living with her, so one day Mont it was said came home full and they all piled on him and made it verry interesting for him, they say they had him bleeding pretty freely, some say they almost killed him, well Mont should have known better.

We have enlarged the office building and have moved our tailoring business In ~~to~~ it, and like it so much better than to have it in the house, we have much better light and a large table to do our work on, we still have some sewing to do, there is practically every thing worked up with the exception of a pair of pants, but there is a bunch of stuff to work up that is waiting till we can take care of it.

I wish some of your Norfolk women could be here part of the time to help me I could find work for all of them at once.

Dan Helmuth is getting better, or had been at last reports, he was able to walk to the barn, have not heard from him for a week or so, hope he will recover and be spared to his family yet a while.

They oiled the road past our place last week, and put some shale on, that as you know makes it sticky, and the gravel sticks to the tires and then flies up against the runner board and wheel shields and rattles like a corn popper. How are the sick getting along at your place, I mean in your locality. I hope Lucy B. is better by this time.

Will close with much love to you all. Rufus

These letters were written to Milton E. Yoder and his wife Barbra Beachy Yoder, parents of Eli M. , Simon M. , Elmer and Norman Yoder, while they lived in the Norfolk, Va. area.